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TheHighlander

Thursday Aug 21 2025 | Issue 703

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Funny bone adjustment

Gavin North grimaces during a sketch at a night of improv at the Great Hall at Haliburton School of Art and Design Aug 14. See more on page 17. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Guinan: this could be the end of Pride

By Mike Baker

With Pride Week in full swing across Haliburton County, co-chairs Allan Guinan and Chris Hewson say this could be Pride in the Highlands' final hurrah.

At a flag-raising ceremony in Haliburton village Aug. 18 – the first observed by Dysart et al township – Guinan said the group, which recently rebranded from Minden Pride, has seen interest dwindle in recent years. Without more help, he fears the organization could be on its last legs.

"Our committee is shrinking, our volunteer numbers are down, and we seem to be running out of steam. I personally am running out of steam," said Guinan, who has chaired the Pride group since 2020. "We are facing the reality that, without enthusiastic volunteers, Pride in the Highlands may not be able to continue. This could be the end of Pride as we know it in Haliburton County."

Sinclair Russell and Bob Baynton-Smith formed the local Pride group in 2016, following the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida. Forty-nine people were killed in the attack, most of them members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Hewson joined as co-chair last year and said the demise of Pride in Haliburton County is the last thing he wants to see. So, he's challenging the community to get involved.

"Our table is open and we're looking for more voices to join the conversation.

Continued **'Street'** on page 6

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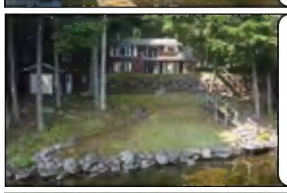

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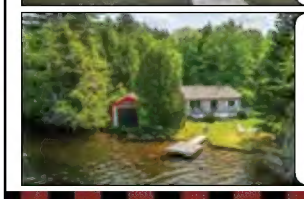

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

MooseFM on-air host Rick Lowes and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong near the end of radiothon Aug. 15. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

All heart in raising funds for ECG

This year's Haliburton Highlands Health Radiothon raised more than $183,000, according to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong. She said the community generated more than $83,000 and a family of longtime cottagers, know as the WB Family Foundation, matched that and more, kicking in $100,000. That brings the total to more than $183,000. Proceeds this year will go towards purchasing a new ECG machine and vital signs monitors. New this year, the foundation set up donation booths across the County – at the MooseFM station in Haliburton, Tim Horton's in Haliburton and Minden, Todd's Independent, Haliburton Foodland, Dollo's Foodland and Boshkung Social. In addition, the Kennisis Lake Marina and Smoke on the Water welcomed donations at an Aug. 15 event, raising more than $12,000. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Minden Hills has a special council meeting scheduled for Aug. 21, while its next regular meeting is Aug. 28. *File.*

Minden's turn to map short-term rentals

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills is the latest township to decide it will put licensed short-term rentals on a map on its website, along with addresses.

Dysart et al and Algonquin Highlands have gone live with the STR dashboard and Highlands East council has given staff the go-ahead, chief building official, Eric Guay, told Minden Hills councillors Aug. 14.

Guay told council the County of Haliburton's IT department, in conjunction with the four member municipalities and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) working group, had developed the dashboard.

Guay said the map will "allow the public to search the locations and confirm licensed STRs."

He added there had been some opposition from the public to posting of licence numbers and addresses, including concerns about privacy, personal safety, and security. However, he said Section 151 of the Municipal Act authorizes municipalities in Ontario to licence businesses within their jurisdictions, and that the information may be posted on the municipality's website.

Guay noted Lake of Bays, and the towns of Huntsville, Bracebridge and Tiny are doing it.

He added the map lets renters know the STR complies with all the rules; lets residents know if ones in their area are licensed, legal and safe, and lets property buyers know whether there are STRs in the area.

Guay added the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act has no problem with the dashboard. He said Tiny Township won a recent legal challenge.

"Based on information provided in this report and in consultation with member municipality colleagues, it is staff's recommendation that the STR dashboard (in collaboration with the County of Haliburton IT department) be imbedded into the Township's STR webpage, and in keeping with other local municipalities, only the STR licence number and municipal address would be displayed," Guay recommended.

Coun. Tammy McKevley asked if STR operators in Minden Hills still have to have a sign with a phone number, and Guay said they did. She added a cottage association reached out to her early in the STR process. She suspected they would be pleased with the decision, as they could now take information to owners about things such as lake health.

Coun. Shirley Johannessen added she thought it was "great the public is going to be able to access that." She said she had been contacted in past by neighbours of suspected short-term rental owners who may not have registered for a licence. She asked if they could make anonymous complaints. Guay said people could complain via the township website, but not anonymously.

Highlander news

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Drainage issues

Dysart et al council will consider a request to install a new underground culvert and drainage pipes along a developable section of Tailfeather Road next week.

At a July 22 meeting, councillors heard from Pauline Lambert, who owns one of five vacant lots on that stretch of road. She said the lack of any municipal drainage system has led to water seeping through her and her neighbours' property, making it impossible for them to build.

"There are five lots in total under water because of this situation which… is not enabling me to develop my land. I have applied for an entrance permit, but was put on hold because I was told, by the roads department, that if I were to put a ditch in, the water still would have nowhere to flow to without a proper system," Lambert said. "Basically, it's brought me and the other four lot [owners] to a standstill."

She told council she's owned the land for a couple of years. She bought it during winter, when it was snow covered, and wasn't aware of the drainage issues.

Public works director Rob Camelon said the problem started "years and years ago" when the plan of subdivision went in. He said there is no outlet to nearby Negaunee Lake, so the water sits and dissipates at its own pace.

He warned council that, should they choose to proceed, the issue is not an easy fix.

"It's not something we could go in there in an afternoon to fix. We'd have to design a system, get approvals from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Ministry of Natural Resources, and probably a tendering process to do the work," Camelon said. "It's not something… we have the capacity to take on [internally]."

After coun. Pat Casey asked if the standing water impacted the road, Camelon said the road does flood "from time to time" but said it's not an ongoing problem.

Estimates for the work will be presented at an Aug. 26 meeting, where council will make a final decision over whether to proceed.

Mapping the future

County-based developer Greg Brown told council one of his developments in the Stothart Creek subdivision has been held up for weeks due to the township having old, inaccurate mapping data of the area.

Brown said he submitted an application to install a septic system for a planned build on June 2 but was told the land lies in an environmental protection zone (EP), per Dysart's records. Provincial legislation specifies no site alteration should occur within EP zones.

Hiring a biologist to assess the site, Brown claims only five per cent of the lot lies in an EP zone. He likened this to a situation that occurred in 2020 at another lot in the subdivision, which Dysart's records showed was 80 per cent environmentally protected. After paying someone to investigate, Brown said only 20 per cent of that property was EP.

"The tool in Dysart's toolbox is from 1990," Brown said of the mapping data. "It was taken from aerial photographs using a stenograph. Unfortunately, this has been flying under the radar for a while."

He called on council to update its mapping and asked that they approve the proposed work. The township's director of planning, Jeff Iles, said the municipality would need data supporting Brown's claims – that the land isn't predominantly zoned EP – before doing so, and for Brown to pay an application fee to update the bylaw.

"This is supported by staff, he just has to go through the proper process to change our law," Iles said.

The planner told council the County expects to wrap its 3D LiDAR mapping project this year and, once complete, the township could use that data to update its own files.

Building bridges

Two bridges are slated for replacement over the next 12 months – the Redstone Brook bridge on Green Lake Road and Barry's Bridge on Barry's Line Road.

Council awarded the work to McPherson Andrews Contracting for $3.05 million excluding HST. Camelon said the project was about 19 per cent over budget, citing market changes due to updated U.S. and Canadian tariffs. The work will be complete by late 2026.

The two structures are about 70 years old and nearing end-of-life, Camelon said. Once complete, the new bridges will have an expected lifespan of 75 years.

Each thoroughfare carries about 250 vehicles daily and connects roads between Dysart and Algonquin Highlands.

The project will be funded through an Infrastructure Ontario loan, with Dysart securing a 4.81 per cent interest rate over a 30-year term. Annual repayments will be approximately $232,000.

Storage no-go

Council has tabled plans to construct a new storage unit for municipal salt and sand after the project came in close to double what was budgeted.

The township earmarked $1 million for the build, with the unit to be constructed at the public works garage on Hwy. 118. Camelon recommended the project be scrapped

Dysart et al council hosted the second of three summertime council sessions July 22. *File.*

though, with no feasible bids coming in.

Fidelity Engineering and Construction offered a price of $1,838,000, with Van Pelt Construction quoting $1,931,642. Total Site Services, owned by coun. Pat Casey, who did declare a conflict of interest, submitted the low bid, but Camelon said it wasn't considered due to an incomplete bid bond application. The bid was $1,423,810.

The public works director felt a price of $1.8m-$1.9m wasn't good value, especially considering other expensive projects coming down the pipeline.

"We also have another dozen bridges coming up," he said.

Camelon said he could look into repairing the grizzly (steel grate) currently being used to store materials, with a full rebuild costing at least $250,000. Another option is to re-tender for a design build. Ideally, he said he needs something that can hold up to 15,000 tons. Council cancelled the project.

(Dysart et al news compiled by Mike Baker)

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. The exhibit features over 70 original works, spanning the last 70 years. Copies of Michael's recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas* are available for sale in the Gallery.

• The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is pleased to partner with Pride in the Highlands for the 2nd annual Voice of Pride Art Exhibition, curated by local artist Scott Michael Walling. The exhibit will be on display until August 30. The Artist Opening Reception will be held at the on Friday, August 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

• Pride in the Highlands activities are taking place at the Cultural Centre. *Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story*, documentary screening on August 19 at 12:30 pm, ctrl-ART-dlt dramatic reading on August 21 at 5:30 pm, Disney's *Strange World*, Friday Afternoon movie on August 22 at 1 pm.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up later this week: Thursday – Crafty Hands Tie Dye, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and Friday Afternoon Movie at 1 pm, Curious Minds – Volcano making.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• August 21 – Special Meeting of Closed Session

• August 28 - Regular Council Meeting

• September 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Our next Household Hazardous Waste event is Saturday September 20 — and it's the final event in Minden for 2025.

There are still five more events in Haliburton County for 2025. Minden Hills residents can attend any of these Household Hazardous Waste events.

For dates and locations, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council consisting of a Closed Session Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Township of Minden Hills Council Chambers (7 Milne St., Minden).

The purpose of the closed session meeting is for Education and Training, pursuant to section 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, regarding Asset Management.

Dated this 13th day of August 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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FALL REGISTRATION

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AH to consider more cremation options

By Mike Baker

A pitch to incorporate a scattering garden for cremations at St. Stephen's cemetery has been shelved by Algonquin Highlands, with mayor Liz Danielsen feeling the idea "is so contrary" to the philosophy of the property's recently-established green burial section.

At a July meeting, deputy clerk Sarah Hutson said the township receives a high number of requests for cremations, noting they've become increasingly common across Canada. She referenced numbers from Statista, a global data platform, which put cremation rates nationwide at 76.9 per cent in 2023 – up from 47.7 per cent in 2000.

"Cremation offers a flexible, space-saving, and often more affordable alternative to traditional burial," Hutson said.

Cremains can be buried within designated cemetery plots at St. Stephen's, St. Peter's and Maple Lake – though there is no spot to scatter them.

Council opted against allowing cremains at the green burial section at St. Stephen's last year. Ashes have a high pH level, similar to bleach, and a sodium content 200 to 2,000 times higher than plant life can tolerate, making land it contacts sterile. Cremains are not biodegradable or compostable.

Hutson brought up a new eco-friendly technology some municipalities are utilizing that reduces cremains' environmental footprint. Canadian firm AWAKE has developed a soil science that neutralizes ashes' impact. She visited a site in Hamilton that has successfully implemented the system, suggesting it could be a good fit for St. Stephen's.

"Their patented product converts cremated remains into healthy organic earth, enriching soil microbes and plant nutrients while successfully storing carbon," Hutson said.

Danielsen felt a better alternative was installing a columbarium, a structure that houses urns, at St. Stephen's and investigate scattering gardens at St. Peter's or Maple Lake, which was supported by deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux and coun. Julia Shortreed.

"I'm really concerned with mixing philosophies… the [Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society] has been so strong with their thoughts on cremation," Danielsen said.

One of the founders of the local green burial society, Shirley Moore, passed away in March. She was the first to be buried in the new section at St. Stephen's and her widower, Terry Moore, felt a scattering garden does not fit the vision his wife, or the wider Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society, had for the space.

"Green burial is all about trying to deal with human remains in the most environmentally responsible manner possible; cremains essentially damage anything they touch.

St. Peter's cemetery was presented as a viable alternative, with Hutson saying she has "a general idea" of where a garden could be located. She noted the township will need to amend its bylaw for interments at the site.

Hutson was directed to engage with AWAKE on options for St. Peter's.

Green burial unveiling

With the green burial section now active, Danielsen felt the clock was ticking on the township officially unveiling the space. An opening ceremony has been proposed, though council feel that should wait until a memorial stone has been installed.

At an Aug 14 meeting, Hutson said a local contractor has agreed to donate a stone from its quarry for the memorial project. Elected officials set aside $10,000 to pay for splitting and installation of the stone, a brass plate to hold names of people buried there, and planting a mountain ash tree. Prep work is estimated to take six to eight weeks, with council scheduling an unveiling for Oct. 19 at 1 p.m.

The township is also investigating a BAO grant to pay for the installation of a columbarium.

Moore said the green burial society's work is ongoing – the group is working with the BAO to allow for people to purchase plots in advance, as is done with traditional burials. Currently, because plots are filled from front to back to allow for renaturalization of the land - they can only be purchased when they're needed.

"Planning is important… forcing people to buy and go through this while they're grieving, we feel, is creating a major burden for people and, intentionally or not, is adding another barrier to green burials," he added.

The green burial section at St. Stephen's cemetery. *File.*

With green burial sections at St. Stephen's and the Deer Lake cemetery in Highlands East, Moore said the next step is finding a way to bring the concept to Dysart et al and Minden Hills.

"We're in the process of trying to figure out, now that we've got St. Stephen's, where do we go from here," he said.

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Top: Algonquin Highlands raised the Pride flag this past Monday. Bottom left: Dysart et al coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts told Pride in the Highlands co-chair Allan Guinan a flag raising in Haliburton was long overdue. Bottom centre: Pride in the Highlands co-chair Chris Hewson addresses the crowd. Bottom right: Pride in the Highlands co-chair Allan Guinan. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Streetfest will be bigger and better

Continued from page 1

Pride is not the point of view of an individual, it should be something everyone is contributing to. The more diverse we are as a group, the stronger our voice becomes.

"The future of Pride in the Highlands has not yet been written, our fate is not sealed – it's up to all of us, as a community, to do the work and keep this going," Hewson said.

The group also held a first-time flag-raising in Algonquin Highlands Aug. 18, at the township office on North Shore Road, alongside events in Haliburton and Minden. Highlands East was the only township not to host a flag raising.

During his speech to guests in Haliburton on Monday, Guinan pondered whether there was still a need for Pride in the Highlands, given the progress the group has made over the past decade. He shared how an incident in Minden last week, where volunteers were verbally abused while decorating downtown with Pride-themed colours, reinvigorated him.

"There's a faction of people that are still not happy we're out and visible in our community. They would prefer us not to be… we also know we have people from our own community who don't feel comfortable coming to events because they feel they're going to be targeted or persecuted.

"Pride in opposition to shame and social stigma, and as a celebration of diversity and beacon of hope is still very much needed. But we need a new generation to help carry the torch into the future," Guinan said.

He feels new voices, such as that of Hewson, who played a pivotal role in the recent rebranding, can help guide Pride into a new era in Haliburton County.

"Imagine events that not only celebrate diversity, but ripple out into every corner of this County, reaching people who have never before felt seen or welcome. Imagine a Pride that inspires young people to stay here, to dream, to believe they have a future. That's not out of reach.

"It doesn't take dozens, it only needs a few more hands and open hearts to keep this movement alive. We need storytellers, designers, marketers, passionate people who can share ideas, lend their skills and simply show up," Guinan said.

Weekend festivities

With festivities running Aug. 18-24, Guinan said Pride Week is the biggest recurring festival in Haliburton County.

Still to come this week is the opening reception for the Voice of Pride art exhibit at Agnes Jamieson Gallery Aug. 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., out on the street line dancing at the Minden River Cone Aug. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m., and the popular Rainbow Streetfest Aug. 24 on Water Street in Minden from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The exhibit is curated by Scott Walling and will feature 17 artists showcasing their talents in various media forms

"It's people sharing their culture in ways that speak to them. Often, when we think of Pride, our minds go to rainbows, parties, and drag queens. All of that is wonderful… but for many it goes much deeper than that. Having a voice dedicated specifically to a queer art exhibition feels so important for us, it gives a platform to all to show what Pride means to them," Hewson said.

Guinan said Sunday's swan song, the street party, will be bigger and better than ever.

"We have a big stage this year, so we'll be hosting two incredible musicians who will be bringing their bands and dancers. There will be more games, competitions, prizes – come and help us close out our celebration in the best way possible," he said.

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Court denies sexual assault appeals

By Mike Baker

An Algonquin Highlands man contesting a 2023 sexual assault conviction has had his appeal denied in a written Ontario Superior Court of Justice judgement.

In June 2023, Paul Gregory Watson was found guilty of sexual assault and unlawfully entering a dwelling following an incident at an elderly neighbour's house in February 2021.

At a sentencing hearing in November 2023, the court heard how Watson entered his neighbour's home in the early hours and made several sexual advances. When rebuffed, Watson persisted, exposing himself while expressing fondness for the victim and touching her over a nightgown, before leaving.

He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which were served on weekends and completed last December, as well as nine months of house arrest and two years' probation. Watson was also placed on Ontario's sex offender registry.

Watson has maintained his innocence throughout, claiming he only entered the neighbour's home because he was worried about her safety. He said he was walking his dog and noticed smoke coming from the chimney – on a previous visit to the home, Watson said he'd recommended not using the fireplace due to a dangerous build-up of creosote, a flammable substance with toxic chemicals that can be harmful if inhaled.

In August 2024, defence attorney Mindy Caterina claimed the trial judge, Justice Russell Wood, erred by not considering testimony from three witnesses, including Watson, who he felt concocted and altered his story to mirror the complainant's testimony. Caterina suggested this was an illegal inference.

Conviction and sentencing appeals for a sexual assault case involving an Algonquin Highlands man have been rejected. *File.*

In her written statement, Justice Myrna L. Lack, who oversaw the appeal, cited R v G.V. 2020 which is commonly known as the "tailoring error." Under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, those accused are entitled to make full answer and defence, disclosure from the Crown prior to trial, and required to be present at the trial.

The case states it is an error in law for the trial judge to impugn the credibility of an accused person on the basis he tailored his evidence to the disclosure received or the testimony or submissions heard in court, because to do so would make those entitlements a trap for the accused.

The Crown felt Wood's findings were based solely on problems he had with Watson's testimony, which Lack agreed with.

"The trial judge's reasons for rejecting [Watson's] explanation are his negative credibility assessments… based on his findings that [Watson's] explanation defied common sense, was internally inconsistent and some aspects were deliberate efforts to mislead.

"There is nothing in the trial judge's reasons which linked his adverse credibility findings to [Watson's] receipt of disclosure, or his presence in court during testimony or submissions… for these reasons, I dismiss this ground of appeal," Lack wrote.

Crown prosecutor Rebecca Griffin appealed the sentence, arguing it was "demonstratably unfit" given the offence and the impact the incident had on the victim, who has since moved away.

In her submission, Griffin said Watson abused a position of trust, noting he regularly assisted the victim with chores and had lived with her temporarily, alongside his wife, while their home was restored several years before.

"That is an aggravating feature of both offences… sexual assault is inherently a crime of violence and an interference with the victim's integrity and security and is morally reprehensible," Griffin wrote, calling for a harsher sentence of at least 18 months.

She also felt Wood "minimized the gravity of the offences by using language that distorted and minimized the offender's behaviour, crimes and vulnerability of the victim."

On the term length, Lack said since the Crown opted to proceed summarily that significantly reduced the maximum available penalties. For sexual assault, it reduced the maximum jail sentence from 10 years to 18 months, and for unlawfully entering a house, from 10 years to two years and/or a $5,000 fine.

"There is no merit to the argument that the sentence was illogical… I find the sentencing judge made no errors in principle [and] that the sentence imposed was not demonstratably unfit," Lack wrote, rejecting the sentencing appeal.

Kawartha Arts Festival - Fenelon Falls

The Kawartha Arts Festival is back for its 36th year and promises to be bigger and better than ever! Taking place in the beautiful town of Fenelon Falls, Ontario, this year's festival boasts over 100 artists showcasing their original artwork.

The Kawartha Arts Festival is a highly anticipated event in the art community, drawing artists and enthusiasts from all over the province. This year's festival features a wide range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, pottery and jewellery.

One of the unique features of the festival is the opportunity to engage with the artists themselves. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions, learn about the inspiration behind the artwork, and even commission custom pieces.

In addition to the stunning artwork, the festival offers live entertainment throughout the day. Local musicians take the stage to showcase their talents, providing a festival atmosphere and making the Kawartha Lakes Art Festival a true celebration of the arts.

The festival is a great way to support local artists and appreciate the beauty of original artwork. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting out, there is something for everyone at this year's festival. So, mark your calendar and make your way to Fenelon Falls Fairgrounds located at 27 Veterans Way for a weekend of art, entertainment, and community.
We can't wait to see you there!

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Health not soccer

By Lisa Gervais

I stopped by MooseFM in Haliburton last Friday afternoon to catch the end of the Haliburton Highlands Health Radiothon.

I got there about 5:30. Rick Lowes was on air so I wandered back to find Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong crunching the numbers, and a team of volunteers hard at it, still accepting a last-minute drop-in donation and calls.

The radiothon started at 6 a.m. last Thursday morning, running to 6 p.m. that night. On Friday, they were back at it for another 12 hours.

As Lowes put on some music and stepped out of the booth, he painfully squatted down. He'd been standing behind the mic when I came in. I noticed a stool and asked if he ever used it. He said he doesn't. So, with the exception of short breaks, he'd been on his feet for literally 24 of the last 48 hours.

He does it every year because he believes in the cause; helping to raise money for HHHSF, so it can, in turn, funnel that money to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services for equipment. This year, it was a new ECG and vital signs monitors.

The community responded, as it always does. We raised $83,000. A long-time cottaging family had pledged to match the total – but upped it to a full $100,000 this year. The end result? $183,000.

While I am so proud of our community each and every time a fundraiser such as this occurs, I can't help but be angry with the provincial government for making communities like ours have to do this in the first place.

The Ontario government doesn't cover the full cost of all medical equipment. Remember the community fundraiser for our MRI and mammography unit? The same applies to the ECG machine and vital signs monitors.

An ECG machine records the electrical activity of the heart. It's a simple, painless test that helps doctors diagnose and monitor various heart conditions. Like vital signs monitors, kind of important. And, yet, the province won't pay for them.

Let's contrast that, with, say, the fact Ontario taxpayers are paying $97 million to host six games at next year's FIFA World Cup.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation did a poll, finding 50 per cent of respondents think the games being staged in Toronto and Vancouver are not worth the cost, with 39 per cent saying it's worth it, and 10 per cent undecided.

I didn't have a say in this particular poll, and I didn't have a say in a vote to spend millions on international soccer matches either.

If the province had asked me what to do with my money, I would have requested cash for an ECG machine and vital signs monitors for Haliburton hospital. I'd probably like the money back for the MRI and mammography, too.

Incidentally, I looked up ticket prices and they were thousands of dollars. I can't afford to go. But I'm pretty sure Doug Ford and some of his cronies will.

It's past time the Ontario government properly funded healthcare capital costs.

SAWDUST STORIES

Attitude, attitude, attitude

By Darren Lum

What do you need to start in the trades?

You know the saying that it starts from within? It's true.

There are three things to remember when starting anything new, particularly when it comes to an area of work that is a contrast to what you're used to: Attitude, attitude, attitude.

That said, it doesn't hurt to have an open mind, courage to admit ignorance and, most definitely, show up.

Fellow Gen Xers know this already. I can still remember pretending to sleep in on Saturday mornings when my father would come to my room to drag me from my slumber to go to Chinese school. Arguably, I was the worst student in the school. My father didn't mind. He just didn't want to have to lie when his siblings in Hong Kong asked about their nephew and how he was doing with language lessons.

I have had my series of physically demanding jobs, whether it was as a bike messenger in Toronto, or, most recently, a dogsled guide in the Highlands. Also, with my first marathon behind me, I'm not adverse to difficult practices. The training that I did in the lead up to the 42.5-kilometre race in Cornwall taught me that showing up for my runs, no matter the weather, was integral to my achievement.

Showing up when the bugs are numerous and the humidity and heat are unbearable.

Back to attitude …

Having a receptive attitude isn't only applicable for the trades, but, really, anything in life.

There are a vast number of opportunities for the intrepid, the person that welcomes discomfort. Where there is discomfort, there is growth.

With this in mind, come to work ready for whatever the day brings, which means having the necessary tools to do the basics. This includes a tape measure (and how to identify fractions), cordless drill, cordless driver, carpenter's square, pencils, marker, and a utility knife. Don't forget personal protective equipment such as a mask to filter the air, safety eye wear and ear protection, green tag work boots and work gloves. Remember a tool belt or pants with plenty of pockets to carry the tools required. Screws have a way of cutting through shirt pockets.

Although I had limited working knowledge of how to use the variety of construction tools, I recommend tackling a few DIY tasks around your own place to familiarize yourself with the tools you bring to the job site. It's helpful to know the difference between a drill and an impact driver. What I've learned is the former bores holes, while the latter drives fasteners. YouTube is a wonderful resource, but nothing beats real world experience and hands-on opportunities. The torque available with an impact driver took me aback when I used it the first time. The power. Be sure to take care of yourself.

This means receiving ample sleep for recovery, nutrition and hydration before, during and after and also ensuring personal safety at the job site, which means more than wearing the necessary articles of clothing, but also moving around the job site, and heavy machinery like excavators with caution, yielding and being visible to the operator. At the end of the day, I am responsible for my own well-being.

Although my road to becoming a proficient contributor at a job site will have bumps, it will be a little bit smoother because of the supportive co-workers and encouraging site managers who are looking out for me to learn and to come home at the end of the day.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Kevin K Pepper sent this photo of a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds enjoying the cooler temperatures from the heat of the sun.

LETTERS

In quiet, true joy can live

Dear editor,

In contrast to July 31st letter writers, I'd like to express thanks and appreciation to Susan Lee for taking action against the growing plague of noise that is assaulting the Haliburton community.

Why do store owners and landfill attendants think silence is a void that needs to be filled by tuneless, screaming, music, punctuated with the fatuous blather of commercial radio disc jockeys and messages from advertisers who apparently believe the more inane the message and the louder it is shouted, the more likely I'll be to buy a product or service?

Perhaps the purpose of this relentless auditory assault is to help people avoid having to think. Certainly, it isn't conducive to the kind of casual conversations that helped enhance a sense of community that has all but disappeared.

Would those who think blasting out a commercial radio station's music choice at the dump enhances the experience of getting rid of garbage be as enthusiastic about the practice if the landfill staff's musical tastes were freeform jazz or Italian opera, Hindi music, Bach Cantatas or Chinese symphonies?

Musical tastes differ widely. What some enjoy may be nerve-jangling cacophony to others. No one has the right to impose their musical tastes on anyone else. It's a simple courtesy that unfortunately, like many other grace notes of respect, has all but disappeared.

If you need a constant onslaught of music to get through your day, wear earbuds and spare the rest of us from being forced to listen to your 'tunes'.

As British philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote: A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live.

Len Pizzey
Haliburton

A classic case of misdirection

Dear editor,

RE: HE community rallies to address crime.

I read with some dismay your reporting of a gathering of 140 citizens concerned about "what they think is a growing wave of crime and theft in Highlands East."

The only entity that would know whether there is "a growing wave of crime and theft" is the OPP. Neither officer in attendance was quoted nor were the statistics made available to corroborate and or substantiate the "feeling," either at the meeting or subsequently.

Nevertheless, Jamie Schmale, the Conservative MP, was quoted extensively on Conservative Party talking points. It was a classic case of misdirection with the not-so-subtle goal of blaming the recently re-elected federal Liberal government. It would have been more useful to have quoted the OPP officers or have the Conservative MPP (member of provincial parliament) in attendance to direct the conversation on jurisdictional responsibilities.

It may be politically satisfying to blame Big Bad Ottawa, but it is the government of Ontario, not the federal government which funds and administers the police, the courts, the jails, the probation system, the crown attorneys, and pretty well everything else to do with the justice system.

It is trite but true that more police officers equal less crime. And the converse is true. The more crime, the fewer the police. Failure to access the justice system in a timely manner results in accused criminals going free. Crowded detention facilities put criminals back on the streets where they are a danger to the public. Citizens get the justice system they pay for. Voters are frequently seduced by the siren song of tax cuts, leaving the provincial justice system underfunded.

My suggestion would be that a second meeting be called; the OPP present their statistics; the minister of justice for Ontario or the Conservative MPP be invited to explain why the courts and police are underfunded, and why jails are so crowded criminals who should be incarcerated are out on the streets. My final suggestion is that MP Schmale leave his Conservative Party talking points at home. Misdirection is not helpful.

Carolyn Dartnell
West Guilford

Ruffie and Gerry: an unlikely friendship

Dear editor,

Residents, whether permanent or part-time, know the Ruffed Grouse; that being as a hunter, birdwatcher, hiker or outdoor enthusiast.

Their mating calls, by drumming on a log, are well-known and welcome in the spring.

After many years of being around them, I thought I knew their habits pretty well; including females pulling the 'wounded bird' routine to lead you away from a nest or young.

About a month ago, I was sprucing up our old sugar shack and a grouse would appear, without fail, as I drove up on an ATV or side-by-side. Soon, I made a connection of the grouse being attracted to the sound of the machine. Then I got curious and also brought some corn and oats to feed it. While it would show some interest in food, that was not the prime motivator.

The odd day it did not show…oh, oh a predator must have found a meal. Then half-a-kilometre away, always in the same place, the grouse (now known as Ruffie) would appear at the sound of the machine. It would follow me, at a trot, on the trail to the sugar shack. I knew by then it was a male judging by the tail bands. Also, it was a mature bird as the tail fell off in the annual molt and is now regrowing.

I started to make motor noises with my mouth. Ruffie was instantly attracted and would come running to me. I can put my hand, with or without corn, and Ruffie will come to me. Then it was suggested by my daughter to play the sound of a drumming grouse she sent to my phone. Wow, Ruffie liked that. He then attacked me as I was sitting on the ground. Fortunately, I had on sunglasses. I can only conclude he considers the drummer a threat to his territory and any resident hens.

Ruffie 'talks' to me with the little chirps and clucks. Quite a friendship we have formed over many hours together. Somehow, I can't see myself hunting grouse this year.

Gerry Wigg
Tory Hill

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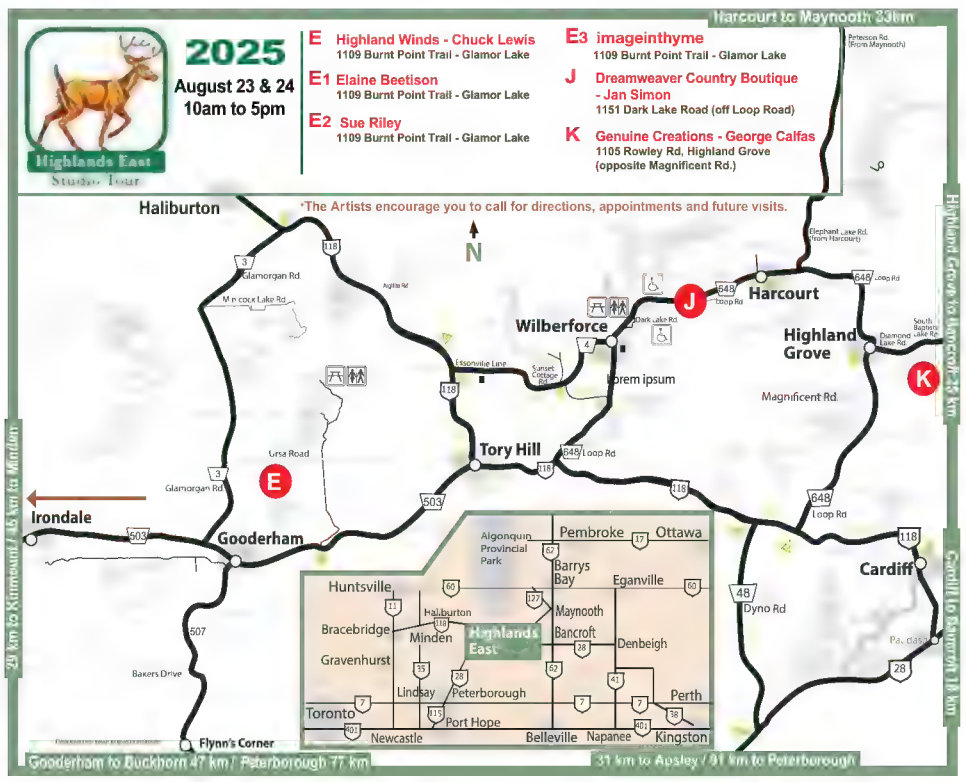
Highlander arts

Cone swirls for 30 years

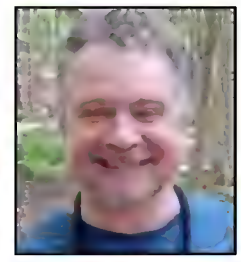
The Minden River Cone celebrated its 30th birthday Aug. 16, putting on a party for locals at its downtown location on Bobcaygeon Road. Owners Ben and Monica Scott organized a full day of activities, including a temporary tattoo parlour, kids' games and challenges, complimentary ice cream, interactive art workshops and live music.

Top: Sara and Elizabeth Reid were served pulled pork sandwiches from the River Cone's Logan Beers. Bottom: The River Cone was hopping all day long on Saturday.
Photos by Steve Sherwood.



ADVERTORIAL

What's stopping us planting natives?



By Simon Payn

What's wrong with growing a non-native rose at my cottage?

I was asked that question the other day. The questioner was expecting me to launch into a rant about the horrors of using non-native, cultivated plants.

I left him disappointed.

I grew up in a house with a front yard bordered by roses. They were spectacular. Reds, yellows... and the scents! I was a sad little boy when my parents grubbed them up because they didn't have time for all the pruning.

I told my questioner there's nothing wrong with planting roses, hydrangeas, hostas, or whatever plant you like, as long as it's not invasive.

If you like a plant, put it in the ground!

I'm not here to scold and shame people into choosing only native plants. Non-natives can be beautiful and serve a purpose.

If you've been reading these articles long enough, you'll know I prefer native plants because they fit in. They have co-evolved with the rest of nature here. That means they play a role in the web of life, adding biodiversity into a world that is losing species at a horrifying rate. Non-native plants do this too - but to a lesser extent, and they're less likely to serve the specialist species that are critical components of an ecosystem.

Here's the thing: you can grow both natives and non-natives. While the more native plants you have, the more nature you will support, planting a handful of natives is better than none

So if it's so easy, why aren't more people doing it?

The problem with natives

First, native plants are hard to find. We're lucky to have Haliburton Micromeadows in the county. Baz, who owns it, has a wonderful selection of species. And of course, we here at Grounded supply native plants to our clients.

But in general, the growers who supply nurseries stick with the tried-and-tested cultivars. It's simply good business. The plants are, as they say, proven winners. They are easily cultivated and grown, and they provide pretty much guaranteed customer happiness.

Finding native plants is like going off-piste at a ski hill. It seems like it's only for the brave.

Second, there's societal pressure. Visit any suburban location and you'll see front yards that are all the same: acres of perfect grass and the same plants put in beds surrounded by mulch. It looks neat and tidy. Breaking the rules by removing the grass and planting densely with natives can get you in trouble, from disapproving glances to a crackdown by a homeowners association.

So it's no wonder people stick with what they know. It's safer that way.

How I solve the problem

My mission here at Grounded is to bring back biodiversity, to do my bit to keep our lakes healthy and, most importantly, to heal our broken relationship with nature. If a plant I've installed brings extra butterflies and bees to a cottage and helps the homeowner appreciate nature a little more, then it's a victory.

So I got to thinking, how can I best do that? It's not about shaming people into removing their hostas. Instead, it's about helping people dip their feet in the native plant waters and helping them see the benefits to our environment - and to their happiness - of, in Douglas Tallamy's words, bringing nature home.

This is why I now offer a maintenance service. I'll take care of your landscape - cultivated plants and all - while slowly introducing native, naturalistic plantings.

Then, when a client comes to me with a big smile on their face - as happened recently - and tells me how much more relaxed and happy they are now they're letting nature in, it makes me happy too.

To learn about my maintenance and design service, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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Highlander arts

Camp drama

The Haliburton Legion was transformed into a spooky campsite this past weekend as County-based art troupe Ctrl-ART-Del brought 'The Grown Ups' to life on-stage. Written by Simon Henriques and Skylar Fox, the play centres on a group of camp counsellors trying to mould the leaders of tomorrow. The coming-of-age play was presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc. *(Mike Baker)*

Left: Brody Bolger's Lukas, Lillian Ramsdale's Becca, Jessica McCready-DeBrun's Cassie, Olivia Humphries' Aidan and Poppy Ellenberger-March's Maeve in deep conversation. Top right: Humphries, as Aidan, sends a message to the camp director over walkie talkie. Bottom right: Ramsdale, as Becca, and McCready-DeBruin as Cassie, strike up conversation. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada, K0L 3C0
705-448-2981
705-448-1027 Fax
info@highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is accepting

Proposals for Canteen Services at the Keith Tallman Memorial Arena

RFP-08-2025

Operation of the Canteen Services for the upcoming ice season (2025-2026):

- Term: October 3rd, 2025 to March 28th, 2026
- Successful proponent will be responsible for operating the canteen during evening and weekend arena business hours
- Operating hours are based on available rentals

Sealed proposals are to be clearly marked "RFP-08-2025 Canteen Services: Keith Tallman Memorial Arena" and submitted to the attention of the contact provided below:
Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road
Box 295
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Deadline for RFP Submissions:
Monday, September 15, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

For further details and to download a copy of the Request for Proposal document, please visit the municipal website at www.highlandseast.ca

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Highlander arts

Reading journey from County to space

By Mike Baker

With Pride in the Highlands' annual week-long celebration here, R.C. Hannah, a queer author who grew up in Haliburton County, says he will be back in town this weekend promoting his latest fictional work, *Warforged*.

Set in an entirely different universe from his post-apocalyptic thriller *Death and Red Trilliums Haliburton – Book One*, which was released last summer, Hannah's latest novel kickstarts a brand-new sci-fi series.

The 353-page *Warforged* was published in May and is geared towards young adults, said Hannah, real name Codie Hunt.

"It's like a flashy sci-fi that takes place in space completely detached from the dark and gritty. I had a little fun with the writing, I had to do a ton of research because for readers of the genre, if the science doesn't check out it kind of takes them out of the book," Hannah said.

The protagonist, Crash McDuff, is a pilot and "professional pain in the ass," Hannah said. After being captured by the Trask Imperium, he's sent behind enemy lines to gather intel for a war he isn't sure he agrees with. Previously thinking he was incapable of love, McDuff struggles to navigate a romance that was never part of his mission.

Hannah said the book is the first installment of a planned trilogy.

He's also working on the second feature of *Death and Red Trilliums*, while a two-book romance duology is also percolating.

For some fiction writers, juggling three different worlds would be a practical impossibility – but Hannah said it's something he's basically been doing his entire life.

Author R.C. Hannah has published his second novel, a sci-fi feature *Warforged. Submitted.*

"I have horrible insomnia. For years, I would tell stories in my head to fall asleep. Then, one day, I decided I'd try writing some of them down. I have had a bazillion ideas, so I figured some of them are solid enough that I could flesh them into a book," Hannah said.

He spent a year on his first novel, which has performed well since it was published in May 2024. He's sold over 400 copies, released a hardback copy and recorded an audio book.

"It definitely was a surprise – a debut novel from an unknown author, there's like a 90 per cent chance it's going to disappear into the ether. There are thousands of books published everyday, but it did really well," Hannah said. "It motivated me to keep pursuing the dream."

Running his own furniture delivery company in the GTA provides Hannah the opportunity to set his own schedule. Business has been good since launching in 2018, allowing him, now, to dedicate more time to his writing.

He's aiming to release *Death and Red Trilliums Haliburton – Book 2* later this year. It picks up from where readers left Cody Thomas, a Haliburton man navigating life in an undead Highlands region. The next installment will take place in the County and Fenelon Falls.

"I'm starting to expand the circle of what we're seeing in the world," he said.

Hannah will have a booth at Rainbow Streetfest in Minden Aug. 24, where he will be selling copies of his two books.

Commenting on the recent rebranding of Pride in the Highlands, from Minden Pride, Hannah felt it was a positive, long overdue move.

"To see that the whole area has expanded and become a part of this is great – there's a lot of things slipping the other way right now socially, so I'm glad to see that at least my hometown is stepping forwards instead of backwards," Hannah said.

Highlander community

Hockey mom making sport accessible

By Mike Baker

Haliburton's Manny Lawson is determined to break down one of the biggest barriers to youth wanting to play hockey – the cost.

For the second year running, she is partnering with the Highland Storm to host a free hockey equipment day Sept. 6 at A.J. LaRue Arena. Running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the event is open to anyone with kids aged three to 17 hoping to play Canada's favourite pastime this winter.

There will be everything from sticks and skates to helmets, pads and gloves, Lawson said.

"Hockey is an expensive sport. Buying everything new is hundreds of dollars, maybe more, which is a substantial cost for families. Especially those on a fixed income," Lawson said. "With rent, groceries, utilities and everything else in life, most don't have enough left over to afford new equipment every year."

About 50 families attended last year's inaugural drive, which was held inside the arena. This time, the equipment day will be hosted outdoors – something Lawson hopes increases visibility and draws more people in.

The Storm is organizing games and activities for kids, with plans for a dunk tank.

Asked why she does this, Lawson said she benefitted from a similar event in Port Perry four years ago, helping to gear her son, Lucas, up for a new season with the Storm.

"We were visiting and saw a pop-up on one of the street corners, so we went over and were told it was free hockey equipment day. Even though we didn't live in that community, they let us pick out anything we wanted – we got him a bag and every piece of equipment other than skates. It saved us hundreds.

With the big day just two weeks away, Lawson admits she's scrambling for some items – particularly for younger ages.

"Last year, I got way too many adult things. A don't need any more 1970s jock straps or older wooden sticks," she said. "Anything for smaller kids would be a big help."

Donated equipment can be dropped off at the Minden Hills fire hall and Emmerson Lumber locations until Sept. 5.

There's no cost for people looking to kit out their kids, though Lawson is asking for non-perishable food items she can donate to food banks in Minden and Haliburton.

Wanting to make this a Haliburton tradition moving forward, Lawson said she's looking for somewhere she can store equipment year-round. Now, everything is sitting in her garage until the big day.

"It'd be great to have somewhere more accessible, that way people can get more equipment through the season if their kid grows, or something breaks," Lawson said.

Anyone looking to donate can contact Lawson at mannyfergie@hotmail.com or 905-410-5964.

Manny Lawson and her son, Lucas, are gearing up for the second hockey equipment day. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

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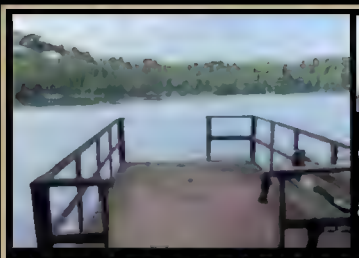

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- 145ft Of Waterfront, Deep Off Dock
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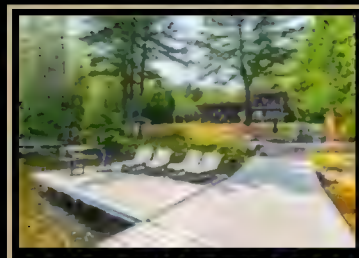
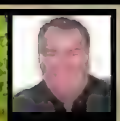
- Dtch'd 24x26 2-Car Garage w/ Loft
- Open-Concept, Lg Windows, Woodstove





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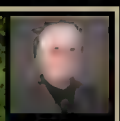

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Highway 35 $499,000
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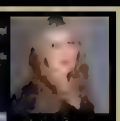

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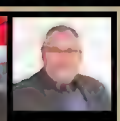

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- 1,800SF home in 'Haliburton By The Lake'
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Haliburton Cottage $329,900
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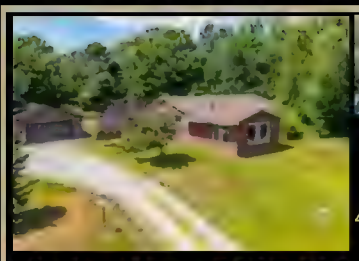

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Minden Home $695,000
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- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
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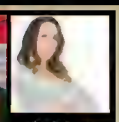

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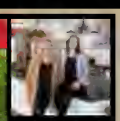

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Highland Street $489,000
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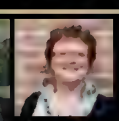

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Irondale River $439,000
- Well kept 3 bedroom home with garage
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- Storage sheds sitting on banks of Irondale Riv.

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Contau Lake $1,495,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 3,300+ SqFt, Post & Beam
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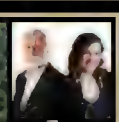
- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock

Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

Wigamog Road $699,000
- 4-bed, 2-bath home, separate 2-bed apt
- Attached Double Car Garage, 1.33 Acres
- Fully Finished W/O Bsmt w/ Rec Room

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Redner Road $635,000
- Beautiful Open Concept Home
- 2 Bdrm+Den, 2 Stunning Renovated Baths
- Main Lvl Laundry, Full Finished Lower Lvl



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Highlander events

OUT ON THE STREET
Line Dancing
Saturday, August 23 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the River Cone in Minden
Dance instruction by Jacqui Bell!
Join us for an afternoon of fun, music, and movement!
In celebration of Pride Week.
All ages and skill levels are welcome!
Donations gratefully accepted to support DH³ community dance initiatives.
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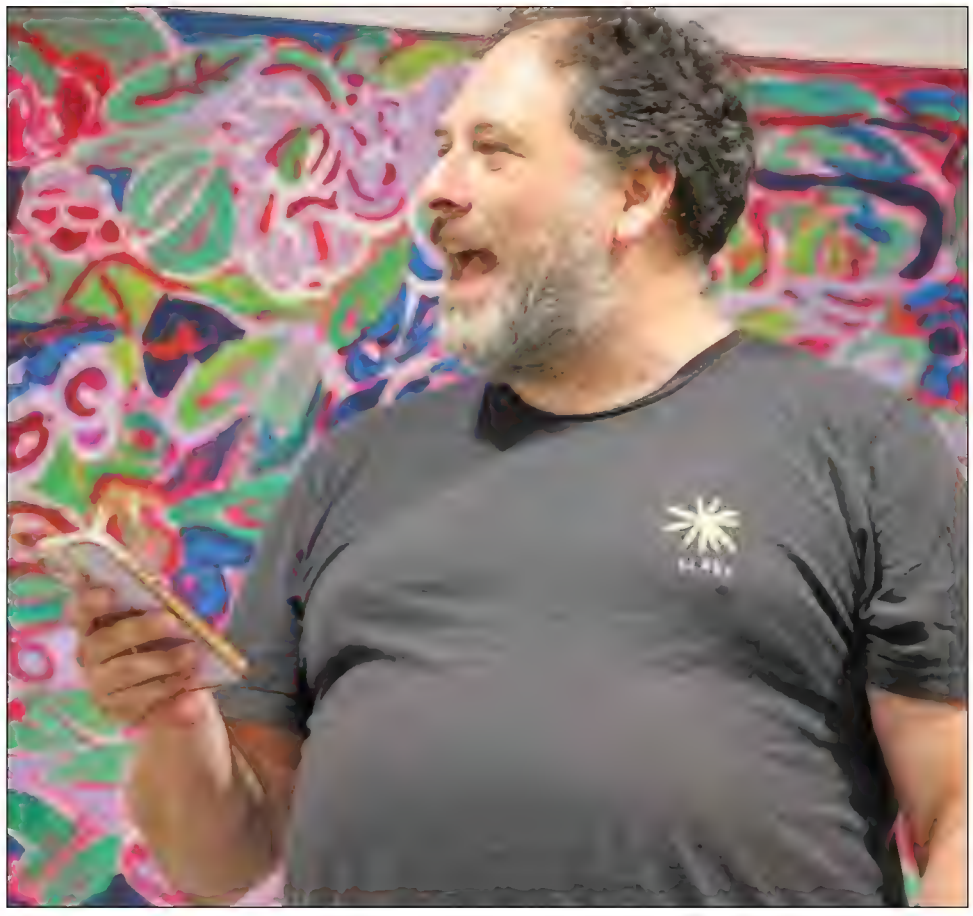
Ready, set, race

Another year of powerboat racing on Head Lake is in the books, with the Toronto Outboard Racing Club (TORC) bringing their show to Haliburton Aug. 15-17. There were 67 racers competing for a podium finish across 14 categories, with organizer Barb Hammond saying it was another great event. Hammond confirmed $6,330.80 was donated to Haliburton Highlands Heath Services. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Haliburton racer, Wes Hammond, in his purple boat, catches up to Brian Goodwin. Middle: Local racer Tammy Everitt made waves during the weekend event. Bottom left: Asha Singh flying along the water. Bottom right: Heather Pietz poses beside her racing boat. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

Highlander events



Short attention span, long laughs

Gavin North and Lenny Epstein, of Short Attention Spa, brought their improv show to Haliburton School of Art and Design Aug. 14. North taught a one-week improv extensive course at the college last week. Together as a pair since 2018, Epstein and North proved to be a hilarious duo with dynamic and well-crafted, smart, alternative comedy.

Lenny Epstein uses an audience members' cell phone to craft dialogue for a sketch. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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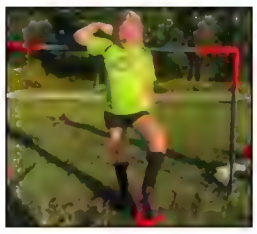
Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!

Britta Ritchie, Jesse Lowes - Coed - 4-6 - White Team

Carter Ouellette - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Finn Ball - Coed 4-9 - Teal Team



Frances Gilmour - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

June Judson - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Leanne Rowsell-Szajda - Girls 7-9 - Purple Team

Leila Geary - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue Team

Ruby Walt - Girls 7-9 - Royal Blue Team

Heat offers opportunities

With the Tuesday storm looming far off to the south, and every ear perked in anticipation of the faintest possible sound of thunder, the game pressed forward with hope that at least a gentle bit of rain might arrive to cool the thick waves of heat radiating relentlessly from the soccer pitch.

Thursday's match, on the other hand, brought no such relief and instead delivered conditions that were simply hot, hot, hot with no end in sight.

Although the overwhelming heat often results in fewer players remaining active on the field at any given time, the situation gives coaches the chance to narrow their focus onto smaller, more personalized drills that target specific skills for each athlete.

At the same time, the reduced scale of gameplay encourages some of the quieter or more reserved players to step bravely out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves with new responsibilities, and ultimately discover fresh levels of confidence and achievement in their developing gameplay. *(Submitted)*

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Sweat Social's Chelsea Adamson, pictured with John Watson, want people to work out for Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. *Submitted.*

Get sweaty to support free Brooksong cancer retreats

By Mike Baker

A Haliburton business is challenging locals to get their sweat on for a good cause this weekend, by helping to raise money for Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

Sweat Social Health and Fitness is running a high-energy hour-long 'Sweat for Support' fundraiser at its gym at 713 Mountain St. on Saturday. The by-donation event is open to anyone, regardless of fitness level, background, or ability, says owner and head coach, Chelsea Adamson.

"This is a chance to show up, work hard and give back to an organization doing deeply meaningful work in the Highlands," Adamson said. "The workout will honour the vital work Brooksong does in supporting those living with a cancer diagnosis."

People will be put through their paces in pairs, using equipment like barbells, dumbells and kettlebells. Adamson said every movement and activity can be modified, making it a workout anyone can participate in.

The money will support programming at Brooksong, which has been running free programming for cancer patients and their families at its sanctuary at Abbey Gardens since 2017.

Executive director Barb Smith-Morrison said the organization has hosted five in-person retreats this year, welcoming people for four days of intimate talks, activity and reflection, with three more scheduled. Each retreat can accommodate about 10 people.

"This is one more retreat than last year. We will welcome approximately 90 people by year-end," Smith-Morrison said. It costs approximately $2,500 per person to attend.

Brooksong has also designed a new 'charting unknown territory together' retreat, for people living with an advanced-stage cancer diagnosis and a close support person or caregiver. Smith-Morrison said the offering provides healing opportunities to focus more deeply on how to make meaning and having conversations about what end-of-life means to each person.

The non-profit is also working on a new program for alumni, ensuring those who have benefitted from cancer support programs have ongoing opportunities to integrate the learning and healing tools they've received, while staying connected with Brooksong's supportive community "that nurtures their ongoing healing," Smith-Morrison added.

With annual operations now well into six figures, fundraisers like this are vital to ensuring Brooksong's long-term future. Smith-Morrison said there's a long waitlist for people looking for assistance – with Brooksong attracting interest from across Canada and North America.

"The growing waitlist tells us just how much this kind of care is needed. This year, we've focused on offering our free cancer support retreats while also building the fundraising strength to keep them going for years to come.

"We believe whole-person cancer support should be available to anyone who needs it, and we're working hard to meet the demand," she said.

For more information on Brooksong's programs visit brooksong.ca. Register from Sweat for Support at mindbodyonline.com. Cash donations are accepted at the door.

What's on

Well done ... HAVE raises $22,500

On Aug. 14, Help A Village Effort hosted its 5th Ron Reid H.A.V.E. Charity Golf Tournament at the Gull River Golf Course in Minden. Board chair Michele Coneybeare said they raised $22,500, which would allow the charity to build nine wells in rural villages in India. "Each well impacts approximately 600 people, and most wells are installed in villages with schools," Coneybeare said. She added next year's tournament is Aug. 13. *(Mike Baker)*

Top left: The Water Boys: left to right, Doug Odell, Wes Lytle, Jere Pike and Ray Kidon. Bottom left: The Kegel team: left to right, Dwayne Moeller, Greg Saville, Jamie Jones and Morgan Giles. Right: Tournament winners: left to right, Tom Taylor, Jason Chambers, Tim Chambers, Johnny Jackson. *Submitted*

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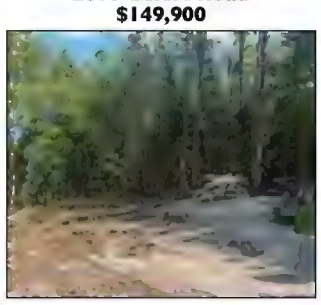

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
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Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. Aug. 25. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are at 2 p.m. Aug. 27, cost is $4 per person.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

Quick supper night Aug. 227 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Menu changes weekly. Cost is $10 per person.

EVENTS

Aug. 22, 6 to 8 p.m. Opening reception for 'Voice of Pride' and exhibit at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre curated by County-based queer multidisciplinary artist Scott Walling, who loves to explore different media and how they can interact and translate. All are welcome.

Aug. 23, 10 a.m. The Minden Whitewater Preserve is hosting the fourth annual Gull River Gala. Featuring a grand prix race, freestyle rodeo and many fun games. Funds from this year's event will go towards installing Muskoka chairs for the communal fire pit. Taking place at 1870 Horseshoe Lake Rd.

Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy the Highlands East Studio Tour, showcasing fine arts and crafts amidst the breathtaking scenery and quaint communities of Irondale, Gooderham, Tory Hill, Wilberforce and Harcourt. Step inside each studio to view the demos and creative works of art inspired by the beautiful lakes and hills of the Highlands. For more information, visit highlandseastartour.com.

Aug. 23, 11 a.m. to noon, meet the author event at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library, featuring Marie Gage, who will share selections from her work, including the latest novel *A Touch of Promise*. No registration required.

Aug. 23, 1 to 4 p.m. 'Old Times' afternoon tea at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost. Enjoy old fashioned tea and sweets, by donation. Bring a friend and make new ones. Taking place at 2314 Loop Rd.

Aug. 23, 2 to 4 p.m. Dance Happens Here Haliburton is partnering with Pride in the Highlands and the River Cone to host an outdoor line dancing event. Dances will be led by Jacqui Bell, a local line dance instructor. All are welcome to join the fun for this free event.

Aug. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pride in the Highlands is hosting its annual Rainbow Street Fest along Water Street in Minden. Check out the many Pride-themed vendors, there are activities for children, live entertainment, and cheer people on as they float down the water for the usual Pride River Parade.

Aug. 26, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to two hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca.

Aug. 27, noon to 2 p.m. Haliburton Lions Stories in the Park fun fair, at Head Lake Park in Haliburton village. There will be games such as bean bag toss, mini putt, basketball toss, ladder toss, fish pond and more. All children will receive a free book to take home. Featured author's this year are Carolyn Huizinga Mills and Adele LaMothe, with live entertainment provided by Gord Kidd.

Aug. 28, 8 p.m. Outdoor movie night at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Enjoy The BFG, an animated fantasy adventure based on the beloved book by Roald Dahl. Admission is by donation. Bring a lawn chair, blanket and favourite movie snacks. Light refreshments will be available.

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Go to our website
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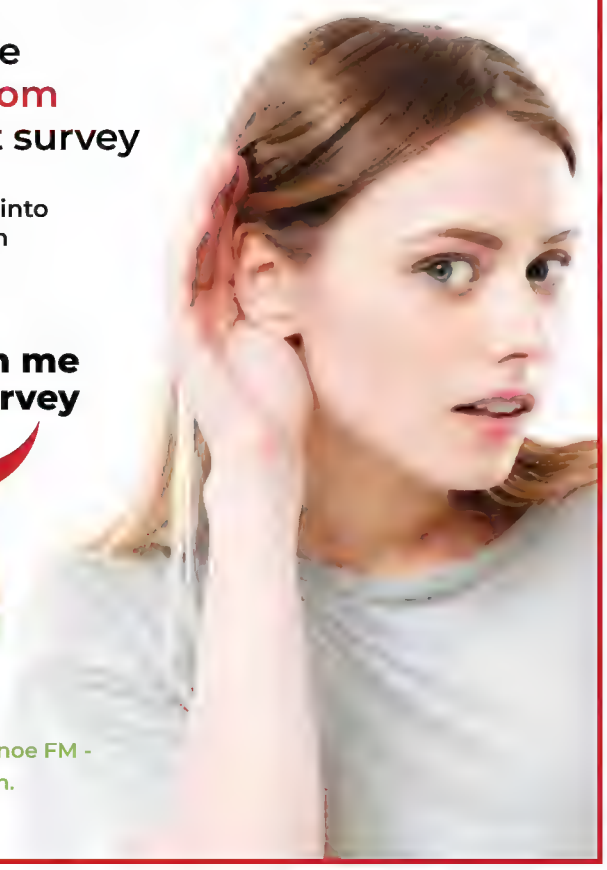
All completed surveys go into a draw for a chance to win a gift card from a local business of your choice.

Scan me for survey



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REVEAL PART 2

Saturday September 6th | 11-3

Live, in-house painting event.

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Snacks and coffee. Reason enough.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING
AUG 21 - AUG 27 this week

Thursday Aug 21

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday Aug 22

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Erin Blackstock, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Thom Lambert, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday Aug 23

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Night Howlers, 12 p.m.-3 p.m

Boshkung Smokehouse, Night Howlers, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday Aug 24

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Jodi Timgrin, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Tuesday Aug 26

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 pm

Music in the Park, feat. Gordie Tentree's, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 27

Haliburton Brewing, Belly Dance Workshops, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Carl Dixon, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!

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Haliburton Rotary
ROTARY
Music IN THE Park
2025
Every Tuesday!
June 24 - August 26
Head Lake Park, Haliburton
For more information:
rcofhaliburton rcofhaliburton

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Highlander classifieds

YARD SALE

GROUP YARD SALE – Stormy Lake Road, follow the signs. Saturday, Aug 30th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tools, log splitter, tractor c/w snowblower and trygg ice chains, canoe stained glass and many other items too numerous to list.

YARD SALE – 1085 Tiffany Lane, Saturday, August 23rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lots of TOOLS, fishing gear, fasteners, roofing screws, plumbing stuff & various other stuff.

LARGE YARD SALE-14445 Highway 35 Minden, Tools, household, tiles. Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug 22, 23, 24. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $130. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

HELP WANTED

Municipality of Highlands East – Yours to Explore – highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East invites applications for the position of **Full-Time, General Equipment Operator** to fill a current vacancy in our **Public Works Department.**

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement: $29.03/hour

Hours of Work: 40 hours/week

Reporting to the **Operations Supervisor**, the successful candidate will be responsible for operating trucks and other heavy equipment in the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges in the Municipality's road system. Provides a variety of construction, snow/ice removal, maintenance and repair services to municipal roads and equipment.

To apply you must possess;

- 2 to 3 years' experience in the operation of heavy equipment used by the Municipality.
- Grade 12 education, or equivalent.
- A valid AZ or DZ driver's Licence;
- Course work in welding would be considered an asset;
- Chainsaw license would be considered an asset.

A copy of the job description is available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

Applications clearly marked **"Application –Full-Time, General Equipment Operator"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Friday, September 5th, 2025, via email, in person, fax or mail. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON. K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

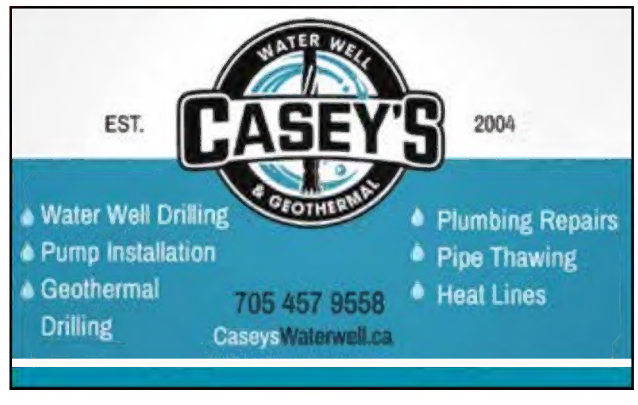
We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

HOME & COTTAGE

HOME & COTTAGE



Highlander classifieds

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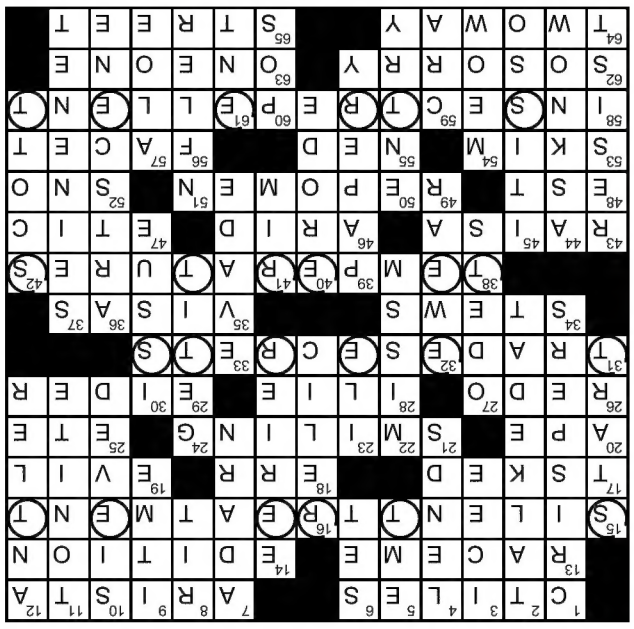

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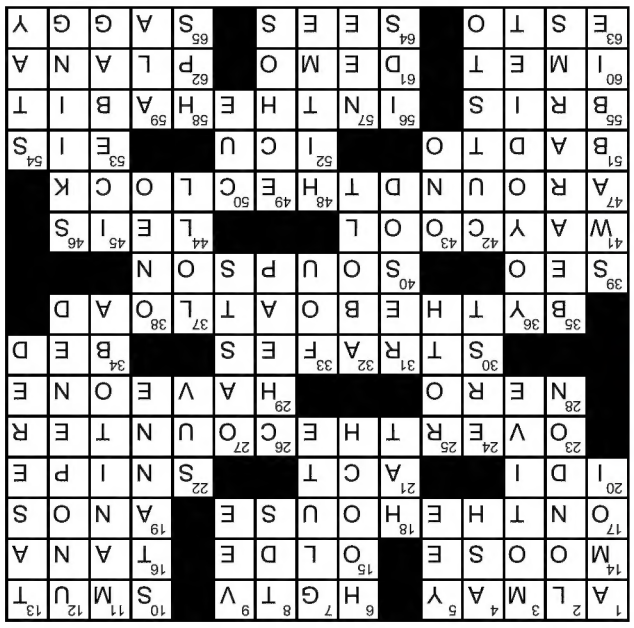

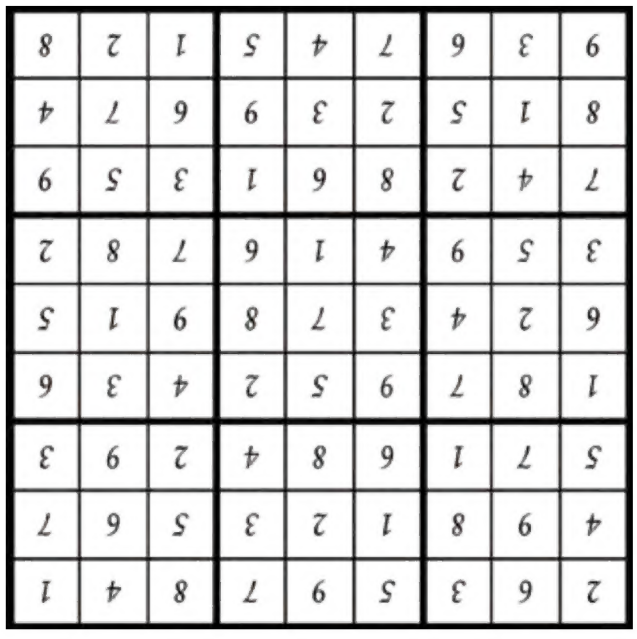

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ANNIVERSARY

OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Miles Millford Roberts

With deep love and fond remembrance, the Family of Miles Millford Roberts announces his peaceful passing, in the evening of August 7, 2025, at the Sturgeon Community Hospital in St. Albert, Alberta, at the age of 72, just weeks prior to his 73rd birthday.

Miles will always be loved and remembered by his devoted wife of 51 years, Sandra Roberts (nee Chynoweth). Loving father of Jody Jones (Mel), Amanda Nimigon (Justin), and Laine Roberts.

His absence will have a deep impact on his grandchildren, Zachary Jones, Nicole (Kirk) Gabuna, Amber Nimigon, Erica Nimigon (Josh Graham), Morgan Nimigon, and his great-grandchildren, Millie and Zoey. Missed by his faithful companions, Blake and Bella.

Predeceased by his father, Ronald (Ron) Roberts, and his mother, Jackie Roberts (nee Henderson). His memory will be cherished by his sister-in laws, Barbra Chynoweth and Della Chynoweth. Also lovingly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A lifelong resident of Haliburton, Ontario, he was a familiar face to many within the community. For decades, Miles worked at the local IGA in Haliburton, a place that became more than his job; it became his second home and a vital part of his identity. Many in town will recall his ready smile, gentle humor, and the stories that he would share that spanned generations of local history.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Ontario Garlic & Scapes, Garlic & Scape Powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2 km from County Road 21, Minden 705-286-1617

FOR SALE – Table Saw with stand, 6" wood jointer. $50. A 255 Mider Saw $80. Electric Angle Jackhammer $120. Call 519-820-5701

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – 18 FT Cedar Strip Boat, restored last winter. Excellent condition. Comes with 3.3 HP Merc & Shorelander Trailer. Purchased in 2001, asking $6,500. Call 289-824-2780

HELP WANTED

HIRING – ELECTORAL MARINE TECHNICIAN or PWC. Local area. Call 416-417-1972 for more information.

HELP WANTED

HIRING: REGULAR MASSAGE SUPPORT, experience good but not necessary, will train you. Between Minden / Carnarvon. $30. + per hr, negotiable, flexible schedule. (1-3 times a week) Contact theheartwoodfarm@gmail.com

MARK'S RESTAURANT - looking for a Server, part time, must be able to work evenings & weekends. Please call Wilson at 705-286-1818 or drop resume off at the Restaurant.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Furnished Bachelor apt, large, bright, new bathroom, new kitchen. Stairs to entryway. All inclusive. Please call 705-935-0168 for more information.

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NOTICE

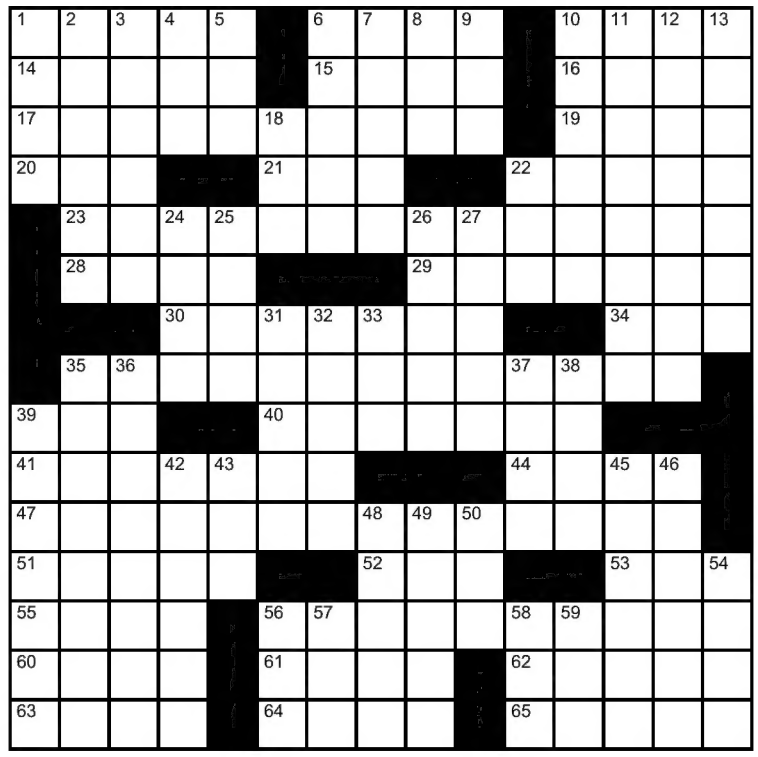
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

Highlander puzzles

Put Them in Their Place

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Revlon cosmetics brand
6 "Property Brothers" network
10 Filthy film
14 Athletic idiot in Archie comics
15 Shoppe descriptor
16 Irish crime novelist French
17 Where to find a roofer?
19 Enero-diciembre spans
20 '70s Ugandan leader Amin
21 Have a part (in)
22 Straight-billed marsh bird
23 Where to find a deli worker?
28 Stout's stout detective Wolfe
29 Try a sample
30 Attacks from an airplane
34 Where dreams are made?
35 Where to find a dock worker?
39 Website boosting tool, briefly
40 "Grub's up!"
41 Awesome, in today's slang
44 Floral neckties
47 Where to find a horologist?
51 Thorogood's "___ the Bone"
52 Critical case ward: Abbr.
53 First part of 45-Down, in German
55 Rite for a newborn Jewish boy
56 Where to find a nun?
60 TV's "How ___ Your Mother"
61 Here's-how presentation
62 First course of action
63 This, in Toledo
64 Goes with
65 No longer taut

Down

1 Quant ___ (French opiner's words)
2 Ontario home to Western University
3 The why, to Wolfe
4 Flicked bit of a butt
5 "___-haw!" (hoedown holler)
6 Prohibition potable
7 Maximus muscle, for short
8 CFL six-pointers
9 Vest neck style
10 Maternal grandmother of Jesus
11 Winnipeg's province
12 Like an email headed in bold
13 Stopped with a zapper
18 Raffle receptacle
22 Station wagon of today
24 Word before while
25 Van Halen's David Lee ___
26 Not given to giving
27 Brewery kilns
31 Fix a divot
32 Like ___ of lightning
33 Kooky, in Québec
35 Second Amendment words
36 Regimen also called "weight cycling"
37 Hang in the hammock
38 ___'clock (1300 hours)
39 Low-level sailor
42 ___ the chase (states frankly)
43 Well-known Yoko
45 Cold comfort for achy ones
46 Going cross-country, maybe
48 Words to a blackjack dealer
49 Bounces back
50 Chalk one up for shooting
54 Plea during a breakup, maybe
56 Pleasure-seeking psyche parts
57 Maiden name indicator
58 Some printers, for short
59 In the style of

Highlander sudoku
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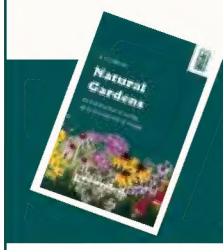
Natural gardens and shorelines designed and installed



For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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5				8	4			3
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	2		3		8			
3			4		6			
7								
	1			3	9			4
					5		2	8

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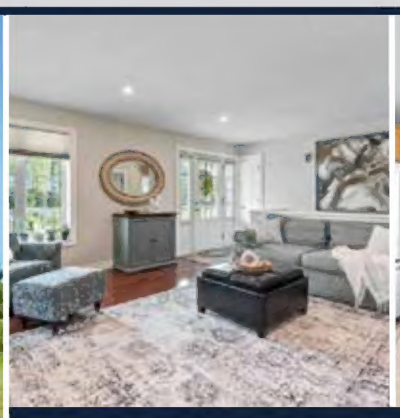
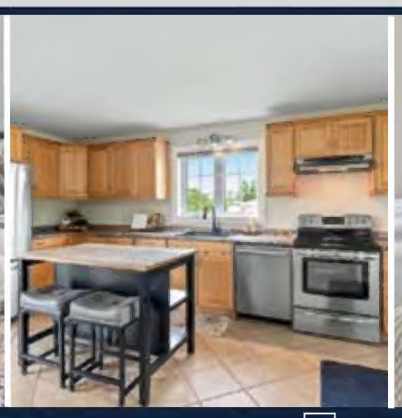
ELEVATING
HALIBURTON
REAL ESTATE

Featured *Listings*

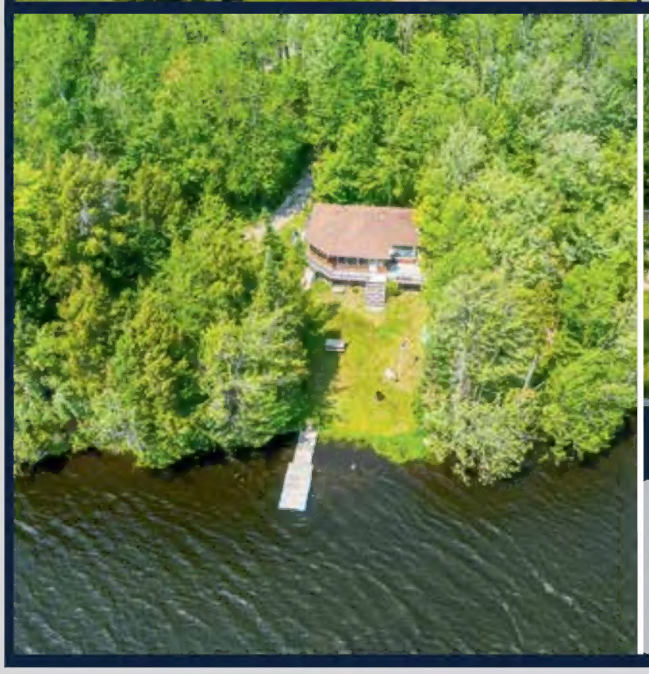


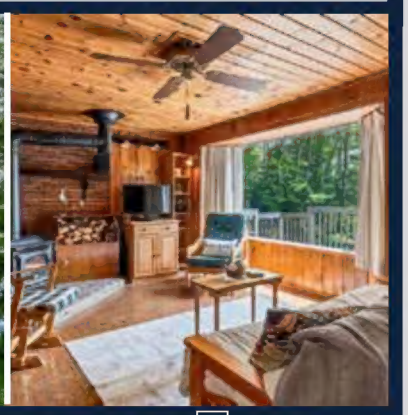


3+1 | 3 | 2600 ft² | 1.5 acres

3 bedroom+den, 3-bath bungalow with many recents upgrades: ensuite, finished basement, wet bar, & more. This home is move-in ready with modern comforts, just 15 minutes from Haliburton or Minden and close to trails & recreation.

$575,000
Ritchie Falls Road, Minden





3 | 1 | 170 ft | 1000 ft²

Private, turnkey 3-bedroom, 1 bath cottage on Trooper Lake with 170' south-facing frontage, year-round access, and stunning lake views. Fully furnished, sunroom, forced air furnace, wood stove, and unfinished basement. Minutes to Gooderham, convenient to Haliburton, access crown land —your perfect retreat awaits!

$550,000
Trooper Lake, Gooderham

Our Signature Touch Lands You Top Dollar

Thinking about selling? Let's make your home unforgettable. At the Maxwell Signature Realty Team, we know first impressions matter. Our staging pros bring out the best in every room—so buyers can instantly picture themselves living there. From cozy touches to local flair, we make every detail pop. Ready to stand out and get noticed? Reach out to the Maxwell Signature Realty Team—because your home deserves to shine.

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